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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh Sharkey and Gary S. Fanton

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Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLED CONTRACTION OF SOFT TISSUE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 45-47, 49, 51 and 52 without prejudice.

I1 Sub 74 48. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 74, further comprising:
a thermal insulator positioned at least partially around an exterior surface of the energy delivery device.

I2 Sub 74 49. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 74, further comprising:
a thermally conductive material coupling the sensor to an exterior surface of the distal portion.

I3 Sub 74 50. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the energy delivery device is an RF energy delivery device coupled to an RF energy source.

54. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the energy delivery device is a resistive heating element coupled to a resistive heating source.

55. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the energy delivery device is a microwave probe coupled to a microwave source.

Add the following new claims.

I4 Sub 74 56. An apparatus comprising:
an energy delivery device including a proximal portion and a distal portion, the energy delivery device being configured to deliver sufficient energy to a selected site to effect a contraction in at least a portion of collagen containing tissue at the selected site, the distal portion including a thermally conductive material; and